

BLM News

Bureau of Land Management

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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

SNOW CLOSES ADDITIONAL SECTION ON STEENS MOUNTAIN LOOP ROAD

Additional snowfall on Steens Mountain has resulted in the closure of another portion of the Steens Loop Road. Effective today October 27, 2004, the gate at South Steens Campground will be closed for the winter season. Visitors will still be able to access the campground, although facilities have been winterized and running water is not available. Fish Lake and Page Springs Campgrounds remain open and accessible, although continued winter weather will limit maintenance capabilities and eventually bring more closures into effect.

The remaining open sections of the Loop Road are wet and muddy in places. Visitors should avoid these areas to prevent resource damage and the potential for becoming stranded. Weather on Steens Mountain can change dramatically within minutes. Be prepared, drive with caution and let someone know of your travel plans.

The North Loop Road Winter Recreation Program on Steens Mountain will get underway as soon as adequate snowfall exists. Popular winter recreation activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and limited snowmobiling. Visitors are urged to contact the Burns District Office as early as possible when planning a trip to the area. Permits are required if you wish to access the snowline by motor vehicle.

For further information on current road and recreation conditions throughout the Burns District, or to inquire about obtaining a winter recreation permit, call (541) 573-4400 or visit our office at 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon. You may also check the Burns District Web site at www.or.blm.gov/Burns for additional help.